

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 4 and 7, without prejudice; and amend claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 17-19 and 23, as follows:

1. (Amended) A trocar sheath tube comprising:

an insert portion introduced into the inside of a body, the insert portion having a tube passage, the tube passage being capable of passing a medical instrument internally, the insert
5 portion guiding the medical instrument into the inside of a body through the tube passage;

a holding portion provided at the proximal end side of the insert portion in order to hold the proximal end side of the
10 3 medical instrument inserted through the insert portion, the holding portion having an opening communicating with the tube passage of the insert portion;

a sealing member removably mounted to the opening of the holding portion, the sealing member having a first sealing
15 portion coming into intimate contact with the medical instrument, the sealing member sealing a space between the medical instrument and the holding portion by this first sealing portion; and

a fixing member removably mounted to the sealing member, the fixing member adapted to fix the sealing member to the holding
portion;

20 wherein an opening/closing valve for openably closing the opening of the holding portion is provided in the holding portion;

wherein the sealing member has a second sealing portion which abuts with an opening/closing valve in a sealed state and
25 closes the opening of the holding portion in cooperation with the opening/closing valve; and

A³ wherein the sealing member has a third sealing portion positioned to be spaced from the first sealing portion, the third sealing portion sealing a space between the medical instrument
30 and the holding portion in intimate contact with the medical instrument.

A⁴ 5. (Amended) A trocar sheath tube according to claim 1, wherein the opening/closing valve is a flap valve movable between a first position where the valve abuts with a second sealing
5 portion and a second position where the valve is spaced from the second sealing portion.

A⁵ 8. (Amended) A trocar sheath tube according to claim 1, wherein the first and third sealing portions have holes through which the medical instruments can be inserted, respectively, and the hole diameter of the first sealing portion and that of the
5 third sealing portion are differ from each other.

A⁶ 11. (Amended) A trocar sheath tube according to claim 1, wherein the sealing member is deformed by the fixing member when the fixing member contacts the sealing member.

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12. (Amended) A trocar sheath tube according to claim 1, wherein the sealing member has an arm portion for causing the first and third sealing portions to be coupled with each other.

14. (Amended) A trocar sheath tube according to claim 12, wherein the arm portion biases the third sealing portion toward a first position where the third sealing portion is arranged coaxially with the first sealing portion or toward a second
5 portion where the third sealing portion is distant from the first sealing portion by 180 degrees or over.

17. (Amended) A trocar sheath tube according to claim 1, wherein the sealing member serves as the opening/closing valve.

18. (Amended) A trocar sheath tube according to claim 1, wherein the first sealing portion of the sealing member has a hole through which the medical instrument can be inserted, and the diameter of the hole is changed by a hole diameter changeable
5 member to be abutted with the sealing member.

19. (Amended) A trocar sheath tube comprising:
a housing having a space therein;
a port for introducing a surgical instrument into the space of the housing;
5 an elongated insert portion having a tube passage communicating with the space of the housing;

a sealing means for closing the port in a sealed state; and

10 a fixing member for fixing the sealing means via a hinge, wherein the sealing means is removably mounted to the housing and the fixing member is tunably mounted to the housing,

15 wherein the sealing means includes a first sealing portion coming into intimate contact with the surgical instrument, the sealing member sealing a space proximate the surgical instrument and a holding portion by this first sealing portion,

Ag wherein an opening/closing valve for openably closing an opening of the holding portion is provided in the holding portion,

20 wherein the sealing member has a second sealing portion which abuts with the opening/closing valve in a sealed state and closes the opening of the holding portion in cooperation with the opening/closing valve; and

25 wherein the sealing member has a third sealing portion spaced from the first sealing portion, the third sealing portion sealing a space between the surgical instrument and the holding portion in intimate contact with the medical instrument.

Ag 23. (Amended) A trocar sheath tube according to claim 19, wherein a shoulder portion meshed with the fixing member is provided on the periphery of the sealing means.
